



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety Investigates Fatal Collision involving a passenger vehicle and tour bus *Swift action by bus driver credited*

On December 20, 2008 at 1:49 a.m. a fatal collision occurred at mile post 13 eastbound on State Route 74 (near Castle Hot Springs Road). The collision involved a passenger vehicle and a commercial bus. The lone driver of the passenger vehicle suffered fatal injuries. 13 people on board the bus were injured. All but three passengers have been treated and released from local hospitals.

The Los Angeles Limousine Express Bus was traveling from Las Vegas to Phoenix and was in the eastbound lanes of SR 74 when for an unknown reason, a passenger vehicle traveling westbound veered into the path of the bus causing the vehicles to collide head-on.

The driver of the tour bus managed to maintain control of the bus by keeping it from going off the road and rolling over. His quick action made the difference and kept this collision from causing more serious injury or fatalities.

Passenger Car 2008 Hyundai Sedan
Driver Deceased: Kathy Wetherell 22, Van Nuys, California

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

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